

CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF GENETICS
COLD SPRING HARBOR, LONG ISLAND, N. Y.

February 15, 1949

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
University of Wisconsin
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Lederberg:

I am very hesitant to start experiments with new strains of bacteria, since we have had a great deal of experience with the B strain. However, the problem we are facing now cannot be solved with our strain, but it might be worked out with your K-12 coli. I am now studying mutations to streptomycin resistance. Some of these mutants are dependent on streptomycin, and therefore it is feasible to observe and study reversions. I am anxious to find out if these reversions are changes in the original locus or due to changes in some other loci. For this your recombination technique is the only approach I know of.

I would appreciate it very much if you would send me cultures of K-12 and of a few mutants that you think would be suitable and easy to work with. I would prefer to have mutants which do not require culture media that are bothersome to prepare.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M. Demerec", with a stylized flourish at the end.

M. Demerec

MD:af